

# Kennecott Will Shift Tailings Expansion Beyond S.L. Boundary

By Chris Jorgensen  
THE SALT LAKE TRIBUNE

Kennecott engineers have come up with a clever way to get Salt Lake City off their backs while the mining company plans the expansion of its mammoth tailings pile.

The company will shift its \$500 million expansion site a mile to the west, just beyond the city's boundary.

City officials say that's fine with them, even though they will lose control over how the 230-foot-high tailings impoundment is built.

"It's an improvement over what they wanted," said Salt Lake City planner Doug Wheelwright. "It puts the tailings further away from messing up our plans for that area."

The city eventually hopes to build two residential neighborhoods on each side of Interstate 80 near 7200 West. Planners feared the nearby tailings expansion would scare off home buyers.

When completed, Kennecott's tailings operation will cover more than 14 square miles, an area roughly the size of Murray, which has 32,000 residents.

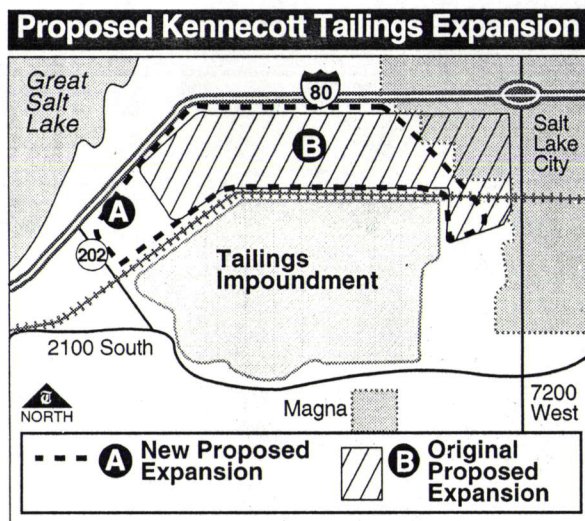
Kennecott officials say the shift in expansion plans was not intended to sidestep the city.

They say the shift was for the birds.

"Moving the whole thing west will reduce by half the amount of wetlands that would have to be replaced somewhere else," said Kennecott spokeswoman Alexis Fernandez.

Kennecott's sudden change of plans surprised Roger Black, the city's management services director, who has been negotiating with company engineers on design of the tailings pile.

Black saw the change as a sign the company is willing to reduce the pile's impact on Salt Lake City. He hopes Kennecott will continue to work with the city in modifying the pile, which will parallel I-80 for about six miles. For example, the pile could be terraced and planted with trees and grasses. And a nearby drainage canal could be rerouted to meander between the pile and I-80.



The Salt Lake Tribune

If Kennecott doesn't play along, the city can still invoke a seldom-used law that allows the annexation of large developments within a half-mile of the city. Most of Kennecott's tailings operation currently lies within unincorporated Salt Lake County.

It was those threats of annexation that touched off a three-way battle last January between Kennecott, the city and Salt Lake County commissioners.

County Commissioner Jim Bradley called the city's annexation threat a "land grab." The city only wanted the tailings pile to cash in on tax revenues, he said.

Kennecott responded by going to the Legislature with an unsuccessful bill that would have killed the half-mile annexation law.

Mayor Deedee Corradini grumbled during the session that it was unfair for the powerful company to deal with a local problem by trying to change a law that would affect every city in the state.

For now, all talk of annexation has been suspended as long as talks go well.

"We still have a lengthy permit process to go through that could take years," said Kennecott's Fernandez. "We'll be talking with a lot of people for a long time."

While Kennecott plans to expand its tailings pile, it is opposing an EPA proposal to place two areas near the copper-mining firm on the Superfund list. Kennecott contends a Superfund listing will slow its own cleanup of the areas, make it more expensive and tarnish the company's name.

## Magna Meeting Will Discuss Proposed 'Superfund' Sites

The first of two public forums on a proposal to designate areas around Kennecott as "Superfund" sites will be held tonight at Brockbank Junior High School, 2935 S. 8560 West.

The Magna meeting will be followed Thursday by a session at South Jordan City Hall, 11175 S. Redwood Road. Both run from 7 to 9 p.m.

In mid-January, the Environmental Protection Agency nominated areas around Kennecott's operations on the northern and southern ends of the Oquirrh Mountains for inclusion on the Superfund list of hazardous-waste sites eligible for federal cleanup assistance.

The north area encompasses the smelter and tailings pile just north of 2100 South; the south area surrounds the Bingham Pit, but also extends east into the western Salt Lake Valley via Bingham Creek and a groundwater aquifer.

High levels of heavy metals exist in smelter slag, tailings and waste from historic mining and processing operations, many of which preceded Kennecott.

Eva Hoffman, EPA's remedial project manager for the Kennecott sites, said although Bingham Creek now is recommended for listing, "it is expected that work will be completed on the creek before the listing becomes final, making it a non-issue."

She added, however, that EPA officials are concerned about the sulfate plume in the aquifer.

Kennecott was nominated for the list in mid-January.

## Panguitch P Digging Up

By Steve Law  
SPECIAL TO THE TRIBUNE

PANGUITCH — Book publishing may not be a typical school project, but in Panguitch it is bringing high school students closer to the war.

Students at Panguitch High School are collecting information about war veterans buried in cemeteries in Panguitch Hatch and the nearby ghost towns of Spry and Hillsdale in a book.

According to project supervisor Phil Singleton, every student in the junior class was signed in January to three four names of veterans from a roster of 220.

The students were then responsible for gathering information on their assigned veterans. They were to look for such things as photographs, where and where they served, and medals they received and anecdotes from relatives.

The next step in the project will be to compile all the information into a book. Singleton says they hope to publish this time next year.

The students also plan

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